What is claimed is:

1.   A water-cooled vertical engine comprising:

a crankshaft disposed substantially vertically;

a connecting rod;

a piston connected via the connecting rod to the crankshaft;

a cylinder housing the piston in a reciprocating manner;

a cylinder block including the cylinder;

a cylinder head connected to the cylinder block;

a combustion chamber formed by the cylinder head in cooperation with the cylinder and the piston;

a cylinder block cooling water jacket formed in the cylinder block;

a cylinder head cooling water jacket formed in the cylinder head; and

a cooling water pump for supplying cooling water to the two water jackets;

wherein the cylinder block cooling water jacket and the cylinder head cooling water jacket are substantially independent, and a pair of left and right cooling water passages branching from a cooling water passage for supplying cooling water from the cooling water pump to the cylinder block cooling water jacket are made to communicate with the cylinder head cooling water jacket via gasket faces of the cylinder block and the cylinder head.

2.   The water-cooled vertical engine according to Claim 1 wherein a branching part of the cooling water passages is formed within the cylinder block.

3.   The water-cooled vertical engine according to Claim 1 wherein an oil return passage for returning oil from the cylinder head to an oil pan via the cylinder block runs through the gasket faces of the cylinder block and the cylinder head between the pair of left and right cooling water passages.

4.   An outboard motor equipped with a water-cooled vertical engine according to Claim 1 wherein a branching part of the cooling water passages is formed within a support frame supporting a lower face of an engine.

5.   An outboard motor equipped with a water-cooled vertical engine according to Claim 1 wherein a branching part of the cooling water passages is formed in mating surfaces of the cylinder block and the support frame supporting the lower face of the engine.